

Employees, Volunteers, Community Partners, and Friends

NEWSLETTER



Giving Young People The “Soft” Skills To Get a Job Another Step Forward in Job Readiness Training



Director Barber and
Governor Haley at the
JRTC grand opening

On October 22nd, DJJ held a grand opening for its new Job Readiness Training Center (JRTC) in Columbia. While the opening was a culmination of a lot of hard work in developing job training opportunities for DJJ youth throughout the agency, it is also part of a new beginning, a renewed focus on job readiness training that DJJ Director Margret H. Barber has embraced.

“If you can get our young people turned around and give them something so they can make money, get that GED, get that diploma and go out and have a job—guess what? They don’t end up on the rolls of Probation and Parole. They don’t end up at Corrections,” said Director Barber at the ceremony.

In fact, the goals of the JRTC aren’t to teach the “hard” job skills. DJJ students already participate in job skills training behind the fence and in the community, and hundreds have completed training and obtained certifications this year to prove it. But the focus of the JRTC is on the skills needed to

actually get a job once a student has the “hard” skills. “We want to teach our students interview skills, networking skills—basic things like how to dress and talk to an interviewer, personal grooming, how to fill out a resume. Then we want to help connect them with an actual job and show them how to hold onto it once they’ve been given the opportunity,” said Michael Smith, at the grand opening.

In implementation of its goals, the JRTC has taken innovative steps to ensure that youth in the community, in any part of the state, will be able to participate in this training. “We’ll have traditional classroom instruction at the Center, but we also have videoconferencing set up so that students can participate from their local county offices as well,” noted Smith. So while classrooms are limited to 16 students, students from up to six remote locations will also be able to participate in each class. The JRTC is also equipped with a computer learning lab and a conference room for meetings and other training.

“This is going to show . . . all of South Carolina what it looks like when somebody commits to being successful”

—Governor Haley

JRTC

Job Readiness Training Center

Connecting Youth with Their Future.

"We're also going to offer a component that will allow a young person to actually find the job. We're actually going to connect them with that job," said Director Barber. "We're going to find that plumber, that electrician, that carpenter who can take them on as an apprentice. We want a young person to leave DJJ with a job they can report to."

The Job Readiness Training Center has already begun its training classes. For more information, please contact the Center at (803) 896-2106.

Walterboro Renames City Park After Crime Victim

On September 25th, the City of Walterboro Renamed The Doodle Hill City Park the "Shaniyah Burden Memorial Park" in honor of crime victim Shaniyah Burden, a child who was killed in a drive-by shooting in 2009.

Walterboro Mayor Bill Young, DJJ Colleton County Office Director Wayne A. Bennett, along with students from the local DJJ TASC/JRT program and members of Shaniyah Burden's family attended the dedication. The JRT students made a special presentation to the family.

Representatives from the Victim's Advocate Program were also on hand. They will be accepting donations to establish a new Cold Case fund to "award monies

to citizens submitting tips that lead to the arrest and conviction of individuals who have . . . committed a violent crime that remains unsolved."

Local officials credited Bennett for his work in helping to rename the park. "I commend Mr. Bennett for all the work he did on this. Changing images is something that is extremely important," said Councilor Tom Lohr.

G.R.E.A.T. Graduation Held at Edisto Elementary School



Left to Right Front to Rear

Brett Macgargle (SCDJJ), Angela Gordon (Guidance Counselor), Rhonda Holman (Orangeburg Co-DJJ), Sally Mintz (SCDJJ), Sean Kane (Orangeburg Co-DJJ), Bridgette Zimmerman (Orangeburg Co-DJJ), Denzel Johnson (Orangeburg Co-DJJ) and Harold Mayes (SCDJJ).

Recently, 195 elementary students from Edisto Elementary graduated from the Gang Resistant Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program offered through DJJ's Orangeburg County Office. The six week program focuses on anti-bullying, anger management, respect, and being a good citizen through a series of class presentations and active skits in which students are encouraged to role-play. The program is currently in its second year at the school.

Orangeburg County DJJ had four staff, Rhonda Holman, Bridgette Zimmerman, Sean Kane and Denzel Johnson, who volunteered to teach this program to the Edisto Elementary 4th Graders. They taught the students in eight classes in the school's cafeteria.

The Orangeburg team also hopes to start teaching the G.R.E.A.T. Families Program in the spring—focusing on strengthening families, reducing delinquency, reducing drug abuse and on behavior problems.



NEWSLETTER

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“Rescue 5” 9-11 Response Vehicle Visits Broad River Road Complex



Birchwood Students with Rescue 5

“Rescue 5” a 9-11 New York City Fire Department response vehicle and travelling exhibit, visited students at DJJ’s Birchwood School recently. The vehicle, which was restored after being saved at auction by a non-profit group, now travels the country teaching students about the events of 9-11.

“Rescue 5” along with the “Rescue 4” vehicle (which also travels the country) responded to the 9-11 attacks on the World Trade Center with rescue teams from the New York City Fire Department. All eleven of its original crew members were killed on 9-11.

More information on Rescue 5 and the traveling exhibit can be found at:

<http://remembrance.co/>

DJJ Adds 15 New TASC Sites

DJJ has added 15 new Teen After School Center (TASC) sites in locations around the state, according to Deborah Lakin, DJJ Prevention and Intervention State coordinator. This brings the total to 36 TASC and JRT sites currently operating.

The new sites are:

1. Auntie Karen Foundation, **Richland County**
2. Boys & Girls Club of Aiken, **Aiken County**
3. Boys & Girls Club of Marion, **Marion County**
4. Boys & Girls Club of Midlands, **Richland County**
5. Boys & Girls Club of York, **York County**
6. CRAVE Inc., Rock Hill, **York County**
7. Ebenezer Lutheran Church/Community CME, **Richland County**
8. Edgefield Youth Empowerment, **Edgefield, Tri-Counties**
9. I Can Kids, **Saluda, Tri-Counties**
10. M.K., Inc., **Georgetown County**
11. Resurrected Treasure Ministries, Inc., **Greenville County**



Mr. Drew, Principal Edisto Elementary School

Birchwood Student Visits Washington to Advocate for Career and Technology Education

Max, a student at Birchwood High School, traveled to Washington, DC on Saturday, September 21, to meet with legislators the following day to advocate for continued funding for Career and Technology Education (CATE) programs that are offered throughout the United States. Max is a member of the South Carolina student delegation that attended the Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTi.)

As a member of the delegation, Max assisted in advocating for CATE funding. As many of you know, Max won a silver medal at the national SkillsUSA competition in Kansas City, Mo. in June, which led to the invitation to be a part of the delegation.

As part of WLTi, student participants were required to produce informational materials to present to legislators as part of their advocacy efforts. Max designed a brochure that focused on the need for and importance of having career and technology education programs offered in the DJJ School District. His brochure was recognized as one of the top five informational brochures that were designed by students for advocacy efforts. Congratulations Max!

12. RLI-Lee, **Lee County**
13. Show Them We Care Foundation, **Richland County**
14. Southern Carolina Boys & Girls Club, **Barnwell County**
15. The Destiny Center, **Ridgeland, Jasper County**

Where Change is Possible DJJ's Communities in Schools and The Insiders

In 1994, after court proceedings and a judge's disposition, a very frightened young man named Charles Chandler arrived at DJJ. A judge had committed Charles after years of disobeying his parents, abusing substances, stealing cars, committing burglaries, and finally fleeing in a high-speed police chase.

While incarcerated, he, like many juvenile offenders, was only interested in *doing his time*, not in changing. This was until he was admitted into the Communities in Schools Program (CIS). CIS offered him academic challenges, work experiences, and community service opportunities through The Insiders, which gave him a new direction.

Eventually, he left DJJ for residential community placement and was later released on parole. Through the years, he kept in touch with some of the CIS staff who knew of his continued progress as a contributing citizen, husband and father.

Nineteen years after his incarceration, he received a call. "There's a job opening that might be a good fit for you. You may want to apply." This was just months ago.

A few months later, he had been hired as coordinator for DJJ's *The Insiders* - in the very facility where he had served time. Started in 1993, The Insiders is an extension of the CIS Program which largely serves male students in an "academy model" program. To better meet the needs of students behind the fence, the program recently transitioned from an academy model to a CIS site at Birchwood School. Services and opportunities formerly offered to a select few opened up to all Birchwood students – including female juveniles. Like Charles, the first female Insider since 1995, Quanella expressed a desire for change, and sought out The Insiders as an avenue for self-development.

"It means a lot to me to be the first...I was so excited that I could not sleep the night before my first trip." Reflecting on her past, she said, "I never saw myself in this position."

Smiling, she continued, "I'm actually proud of myself...Now I know that I can do anything I set my mind to do. I have changed...." Quanella has since left DJJ.

Both Charles and Quanella are an inspiration to all who have played a role in their lives over the years. Whether a long and proven track record or in the fledgling stages of transformation; DJJ is where *change is possible*.

Vekiza Williams Wins James W. Sparks Youth Worker of the Year Award



Vekiza Williams, a Community Specialist at DJJ's Dorchester County Office received the 2013 James W. Sparks Youth Worker of the Year Award, presented by the Alston Wilkes Society.

Williams began at DJJ as an intern seven years ago and has become a trained facilitator with Family Solutions, the program she helped to implement in Dorchester County, as well as the Choices program and Girl's Circle.

The award is given in honor of the late Judge James W. Sparks, who was widely recognized for his unique perception and intellectual understanding of juvenile law and juvenile justice issues. He was considered a pioneer in the development of sentencing alternatives for juvenile court.

USC Service-Learning at DJJ



University of South Carolina's (USC) College of Education students have been busy around campus assisting with various events and activities as they complete their service learning hours. The students are required to complete a minimum of 20 hours of service to meet the class requirements of their EDTE 400 Learning Through Community Service course.

Several students have decided to become fully approved DJJ volunteers. Thank you.

Willow Lane Girls SPA-Day



On Saturday, November 9, 2013, volunteer Paulette Munn and her ministry team from First Baptist Church of Camden, SC sponsored a SPA-Day for the Willow Lane Girls. Individual pampering stations were created including a massage chair, pedicure and manicure treatments, as well as facials and make-overs with Mary Kay skin care and cosmetic products. Before the pampering begun, the girls watched the Reverend Billy Graham's recent evangelistic message, titled "The Cross," which brought some of the girls to tears. Of course, the day could not end without the serving of hors d'oeuvres such as chocolate covered strawberries, partnered with gourmet cheese and crackers, apple cider and a full Deli lunch. The girls were left feeling spiritually edified, beautiful, and stuffed with food!

The unanimous response from the girls and the WL staff was that this was a much needed and much

appreciated treat! A total of five (5) girls were in attendance and eight (8) volunteers. The girls also received take-home gift boxes which included SPA body lotion, a journal, spiritual literature related to the Billy Graham video, and other sweet treats. To close out the day, each girl had some personal prayer time with their SPA-Day attendant.

"Leashed"



The Birchwood Bulldogs (1-1) experienced their first defeat of the season to the Riverland Hill B-Team. After coming out of the gates running, the Bulldogs were contained for the most part of this match-up. They lost with a final score of 57-47. Although the Bulldogs suffered a defeat, they showed plenty of resolve and toughness through the adversity faced during the game. The tenacity displayed in the final quarter should spearhead the Bulldogs into a strong finish to the remainder of the season. The leading scorers for the Bulldogs were Hy'fabian Thames (13 points, 2 steals 1 rebound), Shaqune Williams (11 points, 5 assist), and Marcus Davis (11 points 1 assist). Other key contributors included Bruce Edwards (9 points, 14 rebounds 1 assist), Tyler Johnson (7 points, 2 rebounds, 1 steals, 1 assist) and Anthony Hurst (5 points, 10 rebounds).

Thanksgiving dinner at DJJ



The annual DJJ Thanksgiving Dinner, sponsored by Shandon United Methodist Church youth ministry team, was held on Sunday, November 24, 2013 at the Bill Rogers Community Connections Center. The ministry team consists of 7th through 12th graders. Our youth were very appreciative of the wonderful meal from Shandon UMC.

DJJ's "Unsung Heroes"



[from left to right: Kelli Scurry, Kathy Speed, Angela Flowers]



[from left to right: Max Dorsey, Rick Wessinger, Stacey Atkinson, Lesa Timmerman]



[from left to right: James Tanner, Michele Fisher]



[from left to right: Najia Kennedy, Karen Skelton, Crystal White, Shawnta Cohen]



[from left to right: Wayne Bennett, Rhonda Green, Natasha Felder, Lewis Grant]

Upcoming Events

December 6, 2013 – Chili Cook-off/Dessert Bake-off ,
Bill Rogers Community Connections Center at BRRC

December 6, 2013 – Memorandum of Agreement
signing with the Missing in America Project, Bill
Rogers Community Connections Center at BRRC

December 7, 2013 - Christmas Party for DJJ Males,
Willow Lane Chapel, 5:30 p.m.

December 14, 2013 - U.S. Senator Tim Scott will visit
with youth at the Midlands Evaluation Center

December 18, 2013 – Mentor Holiday Magic at CCC,
5:30 p.m.

January – May 2014 - Lunch Buddies at Burnside
Elementary School

January 2014 – National Mentoring Month: DJJ
Office of Volunteer Services will host a weekly
mentor appreciation event during the month of
January.

New Vistors at the BRRC Pond



A flock of Great Egrets has recently joined the Canada Geese at the BRRC pond.



Velvet McGowan, who is DJJ's Statewide Coordinator for PbS, is shown with Rotarians as she was named by the Rotary Club of Lake Murray-Irmo as a Paul Harris Fellow. The award exemplifies the humanitarian and educational objectives of The Rotary Foundation.

Happy Halloween!



DJJ's Kathy Speed prepares to go trick-or-treating at BRRC for Halloween



Promotions & Announcements



Dr. Jennifer Miller-Green has been promoted to the Director of Psychology.

Rebecca Morris from the Aiken County DJJ Office has been promoted to the Midlands Region Special Needs Coordinator.

The Office of Legal, Legislative and Policy Coordination recently hired **Doretha Best**, as Release Authority Coordinator for the Department and **Gloria Bennett** as Administrative Assistant.

Congratulations to **Steve Pullie**, DJJ's Procurement Manager, who has been elected president of the South Carolina Association of Governmental Purchasing Officials (SCAGPO). Steve's appointment is for one year, ending in December 2014.

Cheryl Brisbane, Special Needs Coordinator, won 1st place at the SC State Fair for her Cereal Cookie.

Vontresa Samuel, Program Monitor won 1st place at the SC State Fair for her Layered Butter Pecan Cake. This cake also won the SC State Fair's Sweepstakes Award, which means the cake was chosen as the best in the category of layered cakes for the SC State Fair.